



# BAPTISTE LAKE ASSOCIATION

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BOX 877, BANCROFT, ONTARIO K0L 1C0



## LOGGERS CAMP



**H**ey Sports Fans, recognize any of these guys? They are the Original Athletes of Baptiste Lake. One big difference from today's warrior on the Lake is that they did not have any athletic trainer nor medical staff to take care of their aches and pains! I doubt if they had a Health and Safety Committee and I am not sure what they had in the way of safety equipment....hard hat? goggles? harnesses? Look closely at the picture, these guys were tough! They also had no benefits, no government assistance programs, no Worker Compensation Plans and no WHMIS! They were the ones, through sweat and toil, who paved the way for Canada to become the huge supplier of lumber to the global markets. They were also the ones who helped launch a new multi-million dollar tourist business with the advent of the train. Baptiste Lake soon became the destination of choice for Americans and Canadians alike. In turn, we are the lucky ones who enjoy all aspects of Baptiste and

surrounding area.

In commemoration of Canada's 150th anniversary, we dedicate page one of your BLA newsletter to the courageous men whose work ethic paved the way for us to live, fish, relax and play on beautiful Baptiste Lake. We cannot take for granted what we enjoy today due to the work ethic that folks exhibited in years gone by.

On a sober note, our local forests and wood lots are now somewhat depleted. The lesson to be learned is to respect our shoreline and waterfront property. In turn we must also protect our water quality and our fisheries so that they do not suffer similar consequences of over fishing and over polluting.

Remember that our water quality and fishery are second to none and must be respected.

*Join us for our first Social Meet & Greet  
Sunday, May 21 at Birch Cliff Lodge from 5:00 to 7:00 pm  
Free wine and beer!*

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - SPRING 2017

BY MARLIN HORST

**A**s you are reading this, many of the seasonal cottagers will have opened the cottage and welcomed a new season. For those of you who have year round places on the lake I can only express my jealousy. I certainly miss the lake during the winter.

While the BLA does not host any social activities in the winter it does not mean that the Board and other volunteers are idle. We continue to keep abreast of what is happening at the Municipal and Provincial levels of Government and how their actions will affect The Lake. One issue which remains is dock repair or installation over 15 square metres requires a building permit from both the Municipality and from the MNRF. Speaking from experience a 15 square

metre dock is not that large. The Provincial Government has proposed legislation to lessen this burden so that the Municipality will not be burdened with permitting docks. We will continue to monitor the situation.

This summer we will continue to meet with the Hastings Highlands Inter Lake Group which is made up of Lake Associations in the Municipality of Hastings Highlands. This group has been instrumental in getting the municipal council to take note of the concerns of the Lake Associations and given us a voice in municipal affairs. We continue to advocate at the municipal level for the protection of our lake and others in the municipality.

The Annual General Meeting of the BLA will be held on Saturday, August 12 at Birch Cliff Lodge, beginning at 10:00 am. Please join us to

*...continued on page 3*

## BLA Officials Spring 2017

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ...continued from page 2

get an update on what the BLA is doing and to bring up any concerns or suggestions that you may have. We welcome any feedback, positive or negative. We need to hear from the members what it is that they want from the organization.

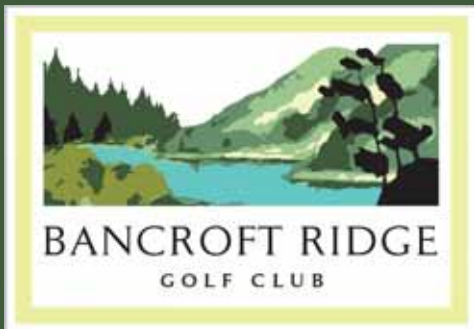
In addition, the BLA continues to work towards implementing the Lake Plan. The Lake Plan is a living document and we must continue to build on and implement its recommendations to ensure that the objectives of the residents, both permanent and seasonal, as set out in the Lake Plan, are achieved. This can only be achieved by volunteers. If you would like to help, in no matter how small a way, I would encourage you to contact Anne Coleman at [info@baptistelake.org](mailto:info@baptistelake.org) and let us know that you are willing to volunteer. The more people who volunteer; the easier it will be for all.

On a personal note I should inform you that this will be my last President's Message. At the AGM in August I will relinquish my title as President. I will continue to sit on the board to help the incoming President (whoever that may be)



## 18 SCENIC HOLES

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but feel it is time for me to pass on the burdens and joys of the Presidency to another person with a vision for the lake. I want to particularly thank the members of the board (both past and present) for making the position of President so easy for me. Many of them have stepped up to do more than they ever receive credit for. I am thankful for each and every one of your contributions. I should also say that the hard work of past Presidents and boards have also helped to ease the burden for me immensely. I have been President for several years (we have only been on the lake for 10 years) and it is time for someone else to carry the association forward.

As I leave one chapter another opens. As you know I have been a member of the board of directors of FOCA for just over a year. After the FOCA AGM, which took place in early March of this year, I was elected Vice-President of FOCA. I hope to be able to contribute something at the Provincial level, as well as at our local lake level. Almost as an aside I should point out that I am still working full time!

If you have any questions or suggestions please do not hesitate to contact myself or any other member of the board. This is your association.

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# MAYOR BLOOM – SPRING MESSAGE TO THE BLA

BY MAYOR VIVIAN BLOOM



I am pleased to announce many initiatives coming our way in and around Hastings Highlands. We have such an amazing area and so many opportunities for enjoyment, whether outdoors at the lake or taking in so many great attractions and events in our region.

In February, your Hastings Highlands Public Library was ranked #1 in the Small Library Category at the Ontario Library Association Super Conference. The prestigious Angus Mowat Award for Excellence follows last year's Ministry Award for Innovation, and high marks (98.7%). Come visit us and enjoy the resources and programs for both adults and children.

Barbara King of Watersheds Canada, is making two special visits this year. On June 28th, she will be addressing a Special Meeting of Council regarding her passion: Clean Water and Sustainability of our Natural Resources. All are welcome to her second presentation on August 2 for our Stewardship Event which is a collaboration of Council, staff of HH, the library, the

*...continued on page 5*

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Rugged Maynooth

**MAYOR BLOOM - SPRING MESSAGE ...continued from page 4**

MNRF and their summer Ranger Program. We have an impressive line-up of organizations with displays, hands-on demos and crafts especially for children.

Hazardous Waste Days will be held at the Loggers Field in Maynooth on July 22 and October 14, 9 am - 2 pm. This is a great way to clean up, get rid of contaminants, batteries and generate funds for HH.

The Maynooth Public School is teaming up with the Municipal grounds area to create a Community Garden. This great initiative will supplement our local Food Bank and local foods need.

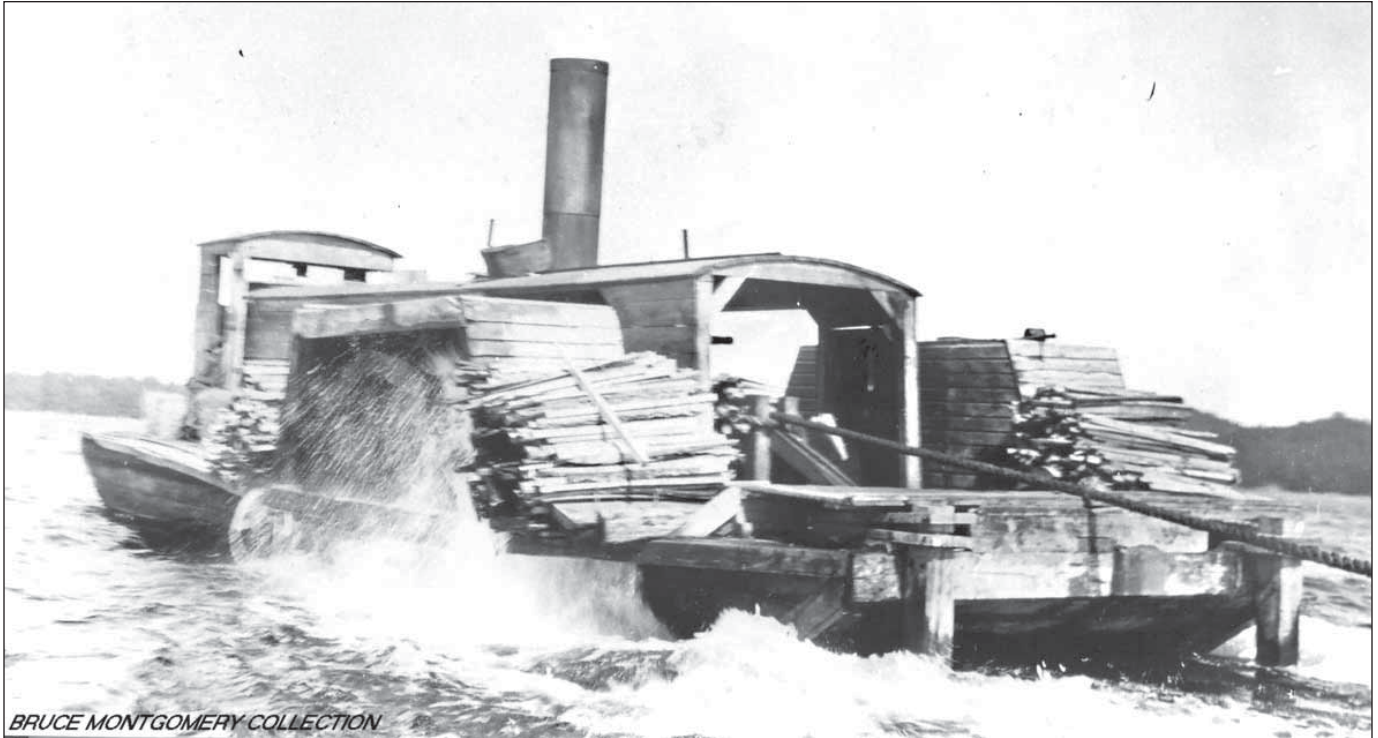
The Maynooth Farmers' Market will once again provide locally grown and preserved foods, unique crafts and furniture. It is a wonderful place to visit with friends, have a quick lunch and pick up information on upcoming events.

The North Hastings District Hospital con-

tinues to upgrade its much needed equipment to meet the needs of all our residents, seasonal or permanent. Many of the finances come from community fund drives and wonderful support from folks like you. This is crucial because the Province offers limited funds for beds and for the running of the hospital. It does not guarantee that our hospital will be completely state-of-the-art. There is always a need to update critical equipment. Having said that, Telehealth advancements allow our local medical staff to communicate with the Major Medical Centers to determine whether patients should be transferred to special trauma centers or intensive care units. Thank you for your continued support which allows our medical team to offer the best service with limited funds and resources.

On a final note, please enjoy the area and all it has to offer. Our local Hospice offers first class events, and please do support the Playhouse for an amazing array of plays, films and events. I wish you a wonderful summer.

# THE ALLIGATOR



BRUCE MONTGOMERY COLLECTION

**I**t is fascinating to learn about the inventions that made transporting of lumber easier from the horse drawn days, to boat/barge to train.

In the early 1900's men hauled lumber with teams of horses and floated logs down rivers to the mills of the day. On Baptiste Lake there existed a fabulous "Old Water Horse" called "The Beaver". It was a steam powered, whirling paddle boat that was powered by a big caterpillar bulldozer engine. It hauled massive booms of logs from the Harcourt Mill to a site that is now the Baptiste Lake Marina where the logs were milled to lumber and loaded on the train at Hughes Landing. Later, this ingenious paddle boat was converted by the engineers at the Martin Brothers Lumber Company to actually climb upon the shore like.... You guessed it, an alligator! Thus the name change to "The Alligator". It is believed to be the only such amphibian vessel of its kind in Canada. It is no coincidence that the Alligator was captained by none other than Sam Baptiste! He went from canoeing in his early days to running the lake with the one and only modern day power boat.

Those who met Sam and listened to his

story are the most fortunate folks to have met the Legend of Baptiste Lake.

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# Wow, WHAT A CATCH!



**W**ow, what a catch! But what about the fish population? Without controls we will be in trouble, right?! In the early days of Baptiste Lake there were lots of fish and far fewer fishermen. So it was not uncommon to see large stringers like this of many fish. Today, we must be more stringent with our catches and more prudent with our catch and release practices. In order to preserve our fishery, it was necessary to establish catch

limits and to ensure that they are adhered to. Accordingly, members of the Lake Association have created the attached sign that summarizes the slot size, fish limit by species and dates by which fish may be caught. These signs are now placed at Birch Cliff and Sunrise Lodge's and we hope that you will help us communicate the importance of following these posted regulations to your guests and friends of the Lake.

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# EARLY FISH COMMUNITY OF BAPTISTE LAKE

By FRANK HICKS

**W**hat do you think the fish community of Baptiste Lake looked like 150 years ago around the time of Confederation? It was probably much simpler and very different from today's community. The early fish community developed after the last glaciation period, which ended 11,000 years ago with the retreat of the Wisconsin ice sheet.

The glacial meltwaters and major drainages, including the Madawaska River, shaped the development of the fisheries and aquatic resources of area lakes. Those fishes that occurred in

Ontario during the Wisconsin glaciation period either perished or moved into refugia south of the ice sheet. As the meltwaters flowed off the newly formed highlands from the rebounding of the land, the fishes in these refugia were able to move northward into areas recently uncovered by the glaciers. The meltwater, presumably very cold, was colonized by cold and cool water species of fish. Warm water species were excluded from occupying these waters and as the land continued to rebound, headwaters were further

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## BAPTISTE LAKE FISHING GUIDE

### OVERVIEW

Baptiste Lake is located in Herschel township, Bancroft. This lake is approx. 2226 hectares and part of a three-lake chain with Benoir and Elephant Lakes. It offers some 36 miles of boating. The maximum depth is about 32 meters. Fish species include Lake Trout, Muskellunge, Smallmouth Bass, Largemouth Bass, Perch, Various Sunfish & Walleye.

### CATCH & RELEASE

Catching fish is a lot of fun but you don't have to keep everything you catch. Practicing Catch & Release helps keep the fish population alive and healthy for generations to come. Juvenile and larger adult fish are important to keep the fish stock in the lake strong. Please help us keep our fishery vibrant and practice Catch & Release.

### RESPECT THE ECOSYSTEM

The ecology of Baptiste lake is a rich one with many species of fish, birds and other wildlife abundantly living in the area. When you are out on the lake, please make sure to bring back all the materials you went out with. Putting garbage, fishing line or materials and other toxins into the lake destroys the ecosystem for everyone else. Please make sure to be respectful.

### LOCATING FISH

If you're new to the lake, finding fish may be a challenge. Some basic tips for locating fish start with locating structure and cover. Finding places fish can hide and ambush prey is a good place to start. Places such as weed beds, rocky shoals and shoreline formations are great places to start exploring to find your first fish.

### REGULATIONS

POPULAR SPECIES	OPEN SEASONS	LIMITS	S - Sport License C - Conservation License
Walleye	Jan.1 - Mar.15 & 3rd Sat. in May - Dec.31	S - 4; not more than 1 greater than 46 cm (18.1 in.) C - 2; not more than 1 greater than 46 cm (18.1 in.)	
Largemouth & Smallmouth Bass	4th Sat. in June - Nov.30	S - 6 C - 2	
Northern Pike	Jan1 - Mar.31 & 3rd Sat. in May - Dec.31	S - 6 C - 2	
Muskellunge	1st Sat in June - Dec.15	S - 1; must be greater than 91 cm (36 in.) C - 0	
Lake Trout	Jan.1 - Sept.30	S - 2 C - 1	

Map generously provided by WhatRunsWhere.com



cut off from downstream waterbodies.

Over the 10,000 years to the present, many lakes in the area developed their own unique fish community. On the basis of fish communities observed in lakes in Algonquin Park and surrounding highlands, Baptiste Lake likely supported sports fish such as lake trout, brook trout, lake whitefish, burbot, and lake herring. Cool and warm water species such as walleye or smallmouth bass, unable to occupy the cold meltwater, were excluded from colonizing these lakes. Northern pike were capable of occupying the cold water, but their refugium during the ice age was isolated from the local highlands, and they were unable to colonize lakes in the area before the land rebounded. American eel were initially part of this fish community, but were restricted from many lakes in recent years due to numerous dams and obstructions that prevented them from carrying out their migration to the ocean to spawn.

What changed? In recent years, the fish community has been greatly altered by introductions and changing environment. For example, the 1966 Ministry of Natural Resources lake survey for Baptiste Lake lists smallmouth bass, yellow pickerel, largemouth bass, muskellunge, rock bass, pumpkinseed, yellow perch, white sucker, brown bullhead, burbot, and lake herring as the main components of the fish community of the lake. More recently, the MNR Broad-Scale Monitoring program revealed the presence of black crappie, bluegill and northern pike, species of fish previously unrecorded in the lake. Smallmouth bass were introduced into lakes in the area on a wide scale during the late 1800's.

Walleye were stocked in lakes in the area during the 1920's and 1930's, but it is not known if they were able to colonize the lake following the retreat of the glaciers. A subsequent stocking of walleye occurred recently through efforts of Al Davis and members of the BLA. Rock bass were predominant during the 1950's and with "many eyes, many mouths", they became a major force in shaping the fisheries in the lake. Muskellunge were introduced as a means of controlling the rock bass, with limited success. Muskie's were very popular among anglers and they were heavily sought after. Today their numbers appear to be greatly reduced as a result of angling and competition with northern pike. Clandestine stocking of northern pike occurred in the last 30 years and they quickly became an important predator in the lake. Black crappies are slowly becoming evident in the lake and it is thought that they emigrated out of Hamilton Lake into Baptiste Lake. In contrast to the introductions, Baptiste Lake has lost species or they have been relegated to very low numbers. All these top

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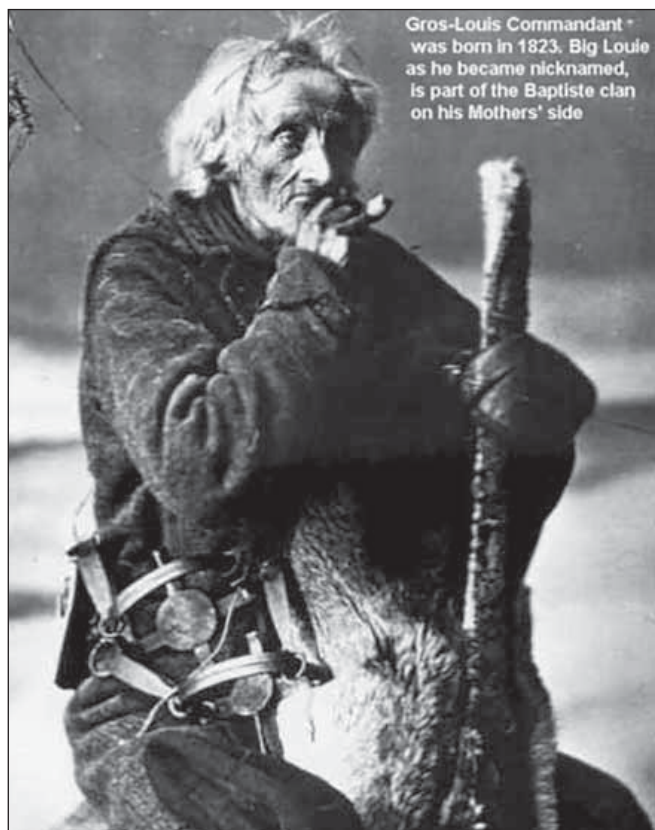
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**EARLY FISH COMMUNITY ...continued from page 9**

predators spelled the demise of brook trout in the lake. I haven't seen lake whitefish or burbot in many years and the lake trout population has been adversely affected by environmental conditions.



Gros-Louis Commandant\* was born in 1823. Big Louie as he became nicknamed, is part of the Baptiste clan on his Mothers' side

Presently, we have a diverse community of sportfish comprised of smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, northern pike and an emerging population of walleye, however, effort must be exerted to control stresses from further introductions, habitat degradation and invasive species.

*References:*

*Hicks, F. J. 2009. Algonquin Park Fisheries and Aquatic Resources. 32pp in Algonquin Park, The Human Impact. Algonquin Eco Watch.*

*Mandrak, N. E. and Crossman, E. J. 1992. Postglacial dispersal of freshwater fishes into Ontario. Can. J. Zool. 70: 2247-2259.*

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Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations

**T**he BLA continues to be a member of FOCA (Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association) which is an association of over 500 lakefront owners associations. As a result of the BLA's membership in FOCA, the members of the BLA also have access to many benefits available through FOCA. Please go to their website at [www.foca.on.ca](http://www.foca.on.ca) to see what is

available for you. You can also sign up for the FOCA newsletter which is delivered by e-mail every month and has links to many informative articles and updates on what is happening in connection with waterfronts in Ontario.

Although Marlin is stepping down as President of the BLA, we are very pleased to announce that he has been elected Vice-President of FOCA at their last AGM. Marlin hopes to be able to contribute something at the Provincial level, as well as at our local lake level. Almost as an aside we must point out that he is still working full time!

## BOAT RIGHT – BE POLITE

RE-PRINTED FROM FOCA NEWSLETTER WITH PERMISSION

**B**oat right: Be polite is the slogan of a boater education program developed after the Lake of Bays Association conducted a recreational boating survey, which found that five activities – water skiing, tubing, wakeboarding and operating personal watercraft or noisy boats cause particular problems for other people enjoying the lake. This education program is a partnership program with the Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association.

Boat Right reflects the laws of recreational boating, which are spelled out in the Canadian Coast Guard's Safe Boating Guide.

Be Polite summarizes the feedback from the association's survey and is a useful tool for cottagers and their guests to reflect on while enjoying a variety of boating activities.

Water Skiing, Boarding and Tubing. Your first consideration in any of these activities should be safety, and if you are operating safely, you are much less likely to annoy your neighbours.

### BOAT RIGHT

- Towing boats must have an operator, a spotter and a seat for each person being towed.
- Do not tow before sunrise or one hour after sunset.
- Those being towed must wear an approved personal flotation device.
- Know and obey the right of way rules.
- You can take off from shore at speed provided you drive straight out from shore.

### BE POLITE

- Keep well beyond the 30 metre limit to avoid

swimmers and boaters near shore.

- Don't swing your riders in front of other people's docks. Drop them outside the 30 metre limit, or come in and out perpendicular to your dock.
- Avoid multiple runs in the same area. Vary your route to share the pain.
- Don't tow around canoes, kayaks, sailboats or small outboards. They may cross your rider's path, and your wake can capsize them.
- Concentrate! Most boating incidents are caused by operators not paying attention.
- Personal Watercraft – Your boat is designed for joyriding, so go out and have fun. But be careful. Personal watercraft are involved in a disproportionate share of boating accidents.

### BOAT RIGHT

- Operators must be over 15, and have an operator's card on board.
- When towing, you must have an operator, a spotter and a seat available for each person being towed.

### BE POLITE

- Keep away from small boats and people. Buzzing or circling around canoes and kayaks, or swimmers poses a safety hazard.
- If you must do repetitive runs, go to the middle of the lake.
- Avoid manoeuvres close to other vessels, even if they are friends or relatives.

### NOISY BOATS

- Boats with through-hull exhaust and little or no muffling can be a great source of annoyance.

*...continued on page 12*



**Joan Grant**  
Real Estate Salesperson

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**BOAT RIGHT - BE POLITE ...continued from page 11**

**BOAT RIGHT**

- Boats must have a muffler designed to eliminate excessive or unusual noise and be in good working condition at all times.
- If you have no muffler, the exhaust must be directed through the propeller hub or underwater unless you are 5 miles from shore.
- Outboards and inboard/outboards must

direct the exhaust through the propeller hub or below the cavitation plate.

**BE POLITE**

- Muffle your engine. You are destroying the peace of those around you.
- Be cautious of high speeds and keep well clear of slower boats. Plan your manoeuvres well ahead.
- If you need to let the noise loose, take your offshore boat where it is designed to run; offshore.

**KEEPING THE FAMILY IN THE FAMILY COTTAGE**

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**H**ow to plan for cottage succession for future generations despite the multiple financial hurdles and inevitable family issues.

**SUCCESSION STUMBLING BLOCKS**

The current ownership generation is approaching or past retirement age. Discretionary income available for cottage expenses are decreasing, at the same time that cottage ownership costs (taxes, utilities, compliance with environmental regulations, septic system upgrades, maintenance, repairs) are increasing. Financial planning and setting priorities for resources is critical to enable this generation of owners to afford to retain the cottage for the next generation.

The successor generation is challenged by the

economic downturn and are less able to afford to buy a new cottage, or afford sole ownership of any cottage property. For many, the only viable cottage opportunity for themselves and their children is to preserve the existing cottage in the family, sharing the usage and costs with siblings and other family members. Family cottages shared by multiple sibling families can cause inevitable friction, differences and disputes, for any family, putting the continued survival of the family cottage at risk following the succession.

**PAYING THE CAPITAL GAINS TAX**

The first challenge in changing the ownership of a cottage is the capital gains tax. This must be paid when the cottage is sold or transferred,

*...continued on page 13*



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KEEPING THE FAMILY ...continued from page 12

during the parents' lifetime, or after their death. Although the federal government recently reduced the impact of this tax, it can still cost tens of thousands of dollars, and many families are forced to sell the cottage as a result.

## KEEPING THE COTTAGE GOING

The second challenge is working out how the children will agree to use and operate the cottage. Among the questions to be answered are: Can any child use the cottage any time, or will there be periods of exclusive use? Who will open and close the cottage? Who makes sure the bills are paid? Who decides if improvements or additions are to be made? When a son or daughter dies, does his/her share of the cottage pass to the spouse or their children, or does ownership continue with the surviving siblings only. Without good answers to these questions, many cottages become a source of strife, not pleasure.

## MANAGING EXPENSES

The third challenge involves the children's financial status. Usually siblings have different financial resources and abilities. Expenses are inevitable, whether it is replacing the septic system, paying the municipal taxes or repairing the roof. If some of the kids can't afford to contribute their fair share, then friction and stress are also inevitable.

## THE SOLUTION

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## BAPTISTE LAKE INSPIRES

BY ANNE COLEMAN

Anyone who has witnessed sunrises, sunsets and changes in the seasons on our beautiful lake, will understand the desire to capture that enormous beauty. Some people use this energy toward beautifying their personal space on the lake, others simply take pictures to guard the memories and then there are the visual artists who translate these moments into fine works of art. Over the past decades, there have been several artists who have used the moods of the lake as subjects for their paintings.

A.J. Casson, appointed member of the Group of Seven in 1926 and Franklin Carmichael both spent time on Baptiste finding coves, old barns and wildlife in motion. Their challenge was to depict the abstract of nature in two-dimensional records of their surroundings and feelings. Blue Heron, Autumn on the York, Northern Church and Barn at Baptiste are a few of A. J. Casson's fine works inspired by the Baptiste Lake area. A graphite work by Carmichael entitled "Baptiste Lake", 1933 hangs in the National Gallery. David Milne came to Baptiste Lake in 1947 at a time in his life when he was seeking solitude and inspiration. His numerous studies, sketch-

es and paintings capture the lake in a quick, light style that touches the constantly changing moods of the lake. Other lesser known artists include Mrs. Erin Edwards, 1886 and C. Norman Erwood, 1925. Perhaps one of the most famous of the Group of Seven, Tom Thompson, visited Baptiste Lake to complete plein air studies and he needs to be mentioned because this is the 100th year anniversary of his death on Canoe Lake in Algonquin Park. The mystique of the landscape compelled these

*...continued on page 15*



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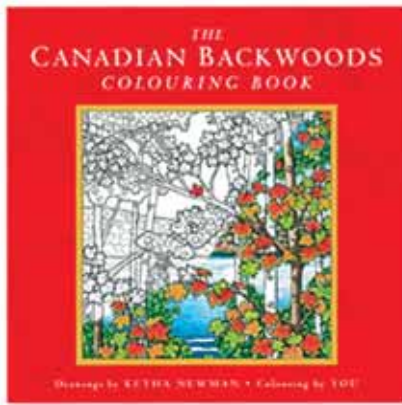


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**BAPTISTE LAKE INSPIRES ...continued from page 14**

artists to create beautiful tableaux and we must preserve this source of inspiration.

Numerous artists, amateur and professional continue today to apply colour to paper, canvas, glass or wood. Many live on or near the lake and have had their work on display in the Bancroft Art Gallery or as exhibits during our Studio Tour in late September. Nancy Brookes, Diana Gurley, Karen Istead, Anne Coleman, Hilary Phillips, Greg Gibbons, Nancy McKinnon and Ketha Newman to name but a few are continuously creating new expressions of their artistic energy.

In recognition of the many forms of celebration of our 150th anniversary of Confederation, I include our local artist, Ketha Newman's personal achievement. Doubleday Canada recently published a compilation of Ketha's works depicted as illustrations in a wonderfully charming colouring book, "The Canadian Backwoods Colouring Book". It is filled with her originals restyled as illustrations that allow the reader to satisfy his or her own colouring urges. One drawing, in particular, is based on the sun shining on Baptiste, therefore the name "Sparkling

Waters".

The following excerpt from Susanna Moodie's "A Canadian Song Roughing It in the Bush", 1852 is an example of the quotations accompanying the illustrations which makes the book all the more inspiring.

"Come, launch the light canoe;  
The breeze is fresh and strong;  
The summer skies are blue,  
And 'tis joy to float along;  
Away o'er the waters,  
The bright-glancing waters,  
The many-voiced waters,  
As they dance in light and song."

Anyone who has spent time in a canoe, kayak or any floating device that is quiet knows the experience imaged in the poem.

Ketha's book is inspired by her genuine love of nature and life in the northern highlands away from the interferences of urban life. Her website [www.kethanewman.com](http://www.kethanewman.com) includes colouring tips and commentary on the drawings.

Nancy Brookes, local water colour artist, has created many plein air studies of the lake and her work is on display at her Antiques and Gallery store in Maynooth. Karen Istead, glass artist, uses fused and stained glass techniques to express the beauty of our countryside. Diana Gurley has a practiced, beautiful style translating the winter and summer themes with grace. Nancy McKinnon, landscape painter, uses oils and acrylics to create bold and bright tableaux.

Whether we are visitors or residents, we all love our lake and draw strength from its beauty; we need to resolve our efforts to preserve its health. This will allow many more fledgling artists to define the gift of Baptiste Lake through their talents.

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# BAPTISTE FAMILY TREE



1895 Chief John  
Baptiste with kids  
Annie and Sam

One of the earliest documented records of Lake Baptiste is dated 1891. It is a summary that was prepared by A.F. Chamberlain who was interested in exploring a relatively unknown area and meeting with the inhabitants he later called “Algonkian Indians”. It is cool to discover, as he did, that there were “20 Indians of Algonkian stock, Catholic, and that a priest would visit them from time to time to disperse the comforts of religion”. He learned that prior to his arrival there had been significantly more Indians roaming the Baptiste area. Now there remained but a small settlement of the original tribes. Mr. Chamberlain found that beside the native tongue, French and English were well spoken. He provided a glossary of Indian/English comparative words describing tools, animals, fruits, vegetables, canoe components, names of the Lakes, Streams and Rivers. Of note, Baptiste Lake was called “Assi’ntowa’ningk, which translated means “the Lake where they hunt with a long pole for fish at night”.

As far as we can tell, Chief John Baptiste (born 1842) was preceded by his dad Grand Chief Jean Baptiste and his Grandfather Grand Chief Ignace Jean Baptiste. Chief John married Madeleine Benoit and had 6 kids, five girls and one son named Sam. Sam married Rose Etta Lewis after her first husband passed away and she and Sam had 2 children. Pamela who died at age 25 of complications, and Jack who tragically died in a house fire. Thus ending the Baptiste name in their family tree. On a happier note of interest, Sam and Jack were outstanding fishing guides for Birchcliff Lodge and the fishing club at

Millionaire’s Island. Sam was also the Captain of the famed “Alligator” that you have previously read about earlier in the newsletter.

It is remarkable to think that not so long ago very few people lived on Baptiste and that they fended for themselves by hunting and fishing. Sam Baptiste once said that “he could put my canoe on my shoulder, go anywhere, catch anything. But not anymore.” He was of course referring to the influx of cottagers and tourists who put a dent into the fishery.

## EDITOR’S NOTES

Like most organizations, the Board of Directors of the Baptiste Lake Association is changing. Marlin Horst will be stepping down as President, a position he has held for roughly the past five years. While he will happily stay on the board, he feels it is time for someone else to make their mark. This coincides with his expanding role on the Board of Directors of FOCA. He has recently gone from board member to Vice President. The BLA board will conduct the duties of the President by committee until a replacement is found. Paul Coleman is transitioning to Editor of the newsletter, as Margot Currie will be stepping off the board in August. Margot has been both Secretary and Editor for roughly the past four years. We welcome comments, articles and support from all of our members. Our newsletter is funded through advertising from the local business community. We are most thankful to them for their continuous support. Sadly, Peter Brown who was most instrumental in contacting and signing up advertisers, passed away this past December. Shelley Pickard stepped in on an interim basis. However, we do need a member volunteer to take over this role. This person would be working closely with Paul. Anne Coleman and Hilary Phillips have assumed the duties of managing the Lake Plan. This was previously held by David Hawkes, who stepped off the board in August 2016. Volunteers are always welcome, and a huge part of making our lake plan a success.



# HIGH FALLS DAM



**O**k, so you work at a desk, at home or at an office. Your back is sore, the phone rings constantly and the computer gets jammed with emails. Big deal. How would you like to be these guys?! The ROAR in their ears is from the ponding of the water over the log jam. Their clothes are soaked, the blackflies are dancing around their heads. They do not have a 15 minute coffee break but presumably have a flask of whiskey tucked in their pocket to calm their nerves. Then the boss man says “ok boys let’s break open the dam and chase these bad boys downstream”. Keep your head up and stick on the ice now has a whole new meaning! Right? And don’t forget about Health and Safety..... There is none!

So now that we have your attention, take a moment and raise a glass to the original wave runners of Baptiste Lake. Secondly, take a moment and reflect on the hard-working Board members who had the foresight to protect and preserve the water levels and fisheries that we all enjoy today.

It is only fair to remind each and every homeowner on Baptiste that water levels in the 1960’s

dropped so low that boats could not be launched at Birch Cliff Lodge! For many seasons the lake level dropped so much that there was significant impact on the spawning grounds of all our fish. When we review the minutes of previous BLA meetings we note endless discussion about who is responsible for water levels, who lowered the logs at the dam to a ridiculous point and who has the legal right to take water from our basin. Numerous meetings have taken place at the Municipal level, District levels, PUC offices, MNRF offices, all the way to Queens Park. Try that without the input from bright, caring, intelligent folks who simply want a voice to be carried to someone, anyone, in authority to represent their concerns. As a result of their efforts, determination and constant lobbying, our current dam was constructed in 1966, replacing the original stone and log dam of 1912 and the cement buttress dam of 1931.

If YOU care about Baptiste Lake, get involved! Don’t sit back, offer to help in any way that you feel comfortable. Call a Board member and chat.... They don’t bite.... Only fish and blackflies.

## HEADS UP! INVASIVE SPECIES ARE CLOSE TO LAKE BAPTISTE!



**M**enna Weese and Wally McCool championed the Invading Species Watch Program on your behalf in 2016. This program started 24 years ago and is sponsored by the OFAH in partnership with the MNRF. Menna and Wally ran tests of Baptiste Lake to detect the presence of Zebra Mussels and Spiny Waterfleas.

The purpose of the program is as follows:

1. To track the spread of invasive species in Ontario waters.
2. To update the International Database with the Ontario information.
3. To inform you what to look for and encourage you to take preventative measures to protect Baptiste waters.
4. To provide monitoring kits, equipment and instructions to capture proper water samples.

In Ontario, 129 lakes were sampled and 37 had zebra mussels, 9 of which got them for the first time! 21 lakes had Spiny Waterfleas, 8 for the first time.

This is not good news for the Province as a whole, however, Baptiste Lake does not presently show signs of the “bad bugs”.

The database tracks 160 different invasive species which means that we must be vigilant in monitoring the leading edge of an invasion, developing strategies to prevent the introduction of such species, and to limit their spread.

Invasive Species is not something that we take lightly or for granted. This is a big issue! To give you an idea of how significant it is, the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) has



setup a hotline for you to call 1-800-563-7711. A website is available for you to check the distribution of species across North America. Visit [www.eddmaps.org/Ontario](http://www.eddmaps.org/Ontario) to sign up and start tracking invasive species today.

Fisheries and Ocean's Canada provide funding for the prevention of Asian Carp.

Promotional Campaigns have been established with Bass Pro Shops and Cabela to inform hunters of how to prevent the transmission of invasive Phragmites.

Due to the increased number of fishing tournaments and the frequency at which boaters move from lake to lake, a new project called “Clean Boats, Clean Tournaments” has been established. This project focused on education and outreach to competitive tournament anglers with the overall goal of engaging anglers in best management practices to avoid the spread of aquatic invasive species. Boat wash facilities have been setup in Orillia and Barrie.

*...continued on page 19*

HEADS UP! ...continued from page 18

So heads up! Jack Lake, Big Cedar, and Wallaston Lake have Zebra Mussels!!! They are coming... ahhhhh

Crystal Lake, Drag Lake, Kawagama, Soyers, Spruce and Loon Lake have Spiny Waterflea!

So how do Invasive Species move?

First by nature, wind, water current, and on the backs of animals. Second by humans, ships, boats, ballast water dumping, canals, aquariums, horticultural trades, bait buckets and illegal fish transfers.

Zebra Mussels arrived in Canada thanks to the Eurasian Vessels who dumped their ballast waters into the Great Lakes. They brought these "gifts" from the Caspian Sea and Ural River. They clogged up any drainage pipe that they could find! Check out the water intake pipes in the industrial and municipal water plants in Lake St. Clair and you will be frightened as to the damage they create. Today, the Rideau and Trent Severn waterways have been invaded. Zebra Mussels have prolific reproductive capabilities and "hitch hiking" abilities. Their microscopic larva called Veligers, are free swimming and are easily transported via bilge water and bait buckets. The adults attach to any hard surface and travel via boat hulls, motors, aquatic plants and boat trailers. One female zebra mussel can produce up to 1 MILLION eggs per season! What!? Yep, beware!

So what? Well, here are some facts that may surprise you.

1. Zebra Mussels can attach themselves to a surface for life.

2. They can crawl by extending a "make shift muscle", attach itself and pull itself forward.

3. They filter one litre of lake water per day and steal important food sources from other mammals up the food chain. i.e the fish that we catch.

4. They have decimated some areas of the great lakes by stealing diporeia from the water. Diporeia are tiny shrimp like amphipods that fish like. In Kingston, the diporeia count has dropped to Zero from 14,000 per square meter, and now the Whitefish are declining fast!

5. They remove microorganisms from the water which increases the clarity of the water and in turn changes the fish patterns and their demise.

6. By attaching to rock beds, the breeding grounds are ruined and fish populations drop.

7. And get this, they absorb toxins like mercury, cadmium, lead PCB's and pesticides! Great! So any waterfowl who eat these mussels are loaded with toxins, like ducks, and they die, and or we eat them... You get the picture.

8. Nine species of clams have vanished from Lake Erie. 600-2000 mussels have been found attached to one clam, they had no chance for survival.

9. Zebra mussels invade beaches, produce a foul odour and create sharp shells that cut feet!

10. And finally, Ontario Power Corporation spends \$20 million a year to control zebra mussels.

So hats off to Menna and Wally for their diligence in running the tests and forwarding the samples to the Ministry for analysis.

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Early Regatta on Baptiste

# SNAPPING TURTLES IN ONTARIO

BY JAN WENCKSTERN

**I**t is important for cottagers to know some facts about snapping turtles. We have nothing to fear from snapping turtles when we are swimming in our lake, as they will always choose to avoid humans. I have been swimming in Baptiste Lake for 50 years and have never had an issue! They can become defensive on land if threatened, as they cannot retract into their shell like other turtles do. A snapping turtle will still choose to avoid a human on land whenever possible.

If you need to move a snapping turtle, which is generally only the case when the turtle is in danger, never pick it up by its tail. This can cause damage to the spinal cord, possibly resulting in paralysis. You may need to move a turtle if it is in danger on a roadway, which is often the case when turtles are on the move during nesting season. This can be done safely by grasping the back of the shell on either side of the tail and gently pulling backwards, preferable onto

a car mat or shovel. It is also possible to safely lift them by placing a hand under the shell and the other on top of the shell, however this may be difficult with a large turtle. The turtle can then be transported to the other side of the road, always in the direction it was travelling.

Snapping turtles are a species of concern in Ontario, and unfortunately are still hunted legally, despite petitions urging an end to the hunt. A snapping turtle takes many years to mature, and will continue to reproduce into old age. It is thought that they can live to 100 years or more. Most eggs are lost to predation, so few baby turtles will survive to reproduce.

Please consider reporting sighting of snapping (or other) turtles to the Ontario Turtle Tally. Here is the link: <http://www.torontozoo.com/adoptapond/turtleally.asp>

Thank you to Adopt-A-Pond Wetlands Conservation Program for information and photos.

# NOTICE BOARD

## Help Wanted

### Your chance to be a part of the BLA Team

Like any association, the quality of its representation generates results. Far too often we rely on others to do the grunt work and take things for granted. So let's burst that bubble and get involved! Call a Board Member and ask to be considered for a spot on the Board or as a volunteer. There are added benefits, cold beer, great food and fantastic social interactions. We do need extra hands on deck and appreciate that you will consider helping your BLA. Meetings are held 4 to 6 times a year and are hosted at board members cottages on a rotating basis.

### Associations Need Financial Support

Please sign up as a dues paying member to ensure that the BLA remains healthy and financially viable. The cost is minimal. \$25 a year, or \$60 for three... Come on, you spill more than that on the dock! Fill out the form at the back of this newsletter.

### Hey, Postage Costs \$\$

We all know that the world has changed. If you choose, send us your email. If there are issues that come up, we may need your input immediately. Send it to [membership@baptistelake.org](mailto:membership@baptistelake.org) along with your cottage address. Maybe you would like to receive the BLA newsletter via email? Think about it.

### Events, put them on your beer fridge!

Sunday, May 21, Spring Opening, Birch Cliff Lodge, 5 pm - 7 pm, Beer, wine, light snacks.

Saturday, August 12, Annual General Meeting, Birch Cliff Lodge, 10 am. We need to hear your

input, concerns, suggestions and feedback.

Sunday, September 3, Corn Roast, Camp Ponnacka, 5-7, Labour Day Weekend Closing Event. More beer, wine and non-alcoholic beverages served with great hot dogs! Bring the kids!

### Around Town

Hastings Highlands Public Library, located beside the Municipal Buildings in Maynooth, offers terrific options for resources, technological support and programs for all ages. It is open 10 am to 2 pm Monday to Saturday, Tuesdays and Thursdays open to 6 pm.



Hastings  
Highlands  
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Library

### Annual General Meeting

Special Feature "Artists on Baptiste"  
Don't miss it!

### Educational

The Bancroft Field Naturalist's Club has just launched a new Nature Journal that can be used all year. It sells for \$10 and can be purchased at The Old Hastings Gallery, Ashlie's Book Store, The Old Tin Shed and Bird's Creek Feed.

Haliburton School of Art + Design has added 70 new courses to complement their summer program.

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*Submitted by* DIANA GURLEY

## 2017 SCHEDULE

**June: May 31 – July 1**

**Ted Duncan -**

**“Exploring My Muse”**

Opening Reception

Friday, June 2 at 7:30 pm

Co-Sponsors *Micheline Leveque, Barr. & Sl. and Hugh and Ingrid Monteith*

**July 5 – July 29**

**Jane Burgess**

**“Perceptions of Love”**

Opening Reception

Friday, July 7 at 7:30 pm

Co-Sponsor *Bancroft Auto Body and TBA*

**August 2 – August 26**

**Patrick Stewart “Glazed Seasons”**

Also: Studio Tour sampler in

gallery shop. Opening Reception

Friday, August 4 at 7:30 pm

Sponsored by *Gertrud Sorensen*

**August 30 – September 30**

**Marc Gagnon**

**“Two Mediums/Two Techniques”**

Opening Reception

Friday, September 1 at 7:30 pm

Sponsored by *Camp Ponaka*

**October 4 – October 28**

**Diane Woodward**

Opening Reception

Friday, October 6 at 7:30 pm

Sponsor *TBA*

**November 1 – November 25**

**Don Wilson and Arne Roosman**

Opening Reception

Friday, November 3 at 7:30 pm

Sponsored by *Pat Cooke in*

*Memory of Paul David Cooke*

**November 28 – December 30**

**Freddie Towe**

**“Flow”**

Opening Reception

Friday, December 1 at 7:30 pm

Co-Sponsors – *Barbara Allport and Clasina Weese*

*Please note  
the Gallery is closed  
December 25th  
for the Holidays.*



Sam Baptiste

*A big thank you...  
goes to Bruce Montgomery for sharing  
his historic photos and knowledge  
of Baptiste Lake.*



Clive

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# PETER R. BROWN

MARCH 6, 1944 - DECEMBER 20, 2016

**P**eter Brown (son of Reg and Eunice Brown) was born and raised in Toronto, graduating from East York CI. Peter received his Bachelor of Commerce degree from the U of T (1966) followed by his CA designation and worked for Price Waterhouse, then moved to work for the Province of Ontario as Director of Finance in the Ministry of Education for much of his career and finally Controller at the Ontario College of Teachers for the years leading up to his retirement.

Peter was a longtime summer resident at the family cottage on Baptiste Lake. The cottage was built on Fell Road in 1914 by Peter's grandfather, Tom Maxwell, and has been passed down through the generations. It has been a gathering spot for extended family for over 100 years and was a real source of joy to Peter. Some of his fondest memories revolved around the summers he worked as a dock boy at Birch Cliff Lodge with Art Nicoll. He wrote many articles through the years for the Baptiste Lake Newsletter recalling many interesting historical events on the lake. He remained active with the Cottagers Association in vari-

ous roles including assisting with regattas, and lately, selling advertising space in the Newsletter to local businesses. Peter enjoyed exploring the lake in his various boats over the years and also enjoyed being pulled behind them while water skiing. He made it a goal to waterski every single summer – one that he reached, up to and including, this past Labour Day weekend, 2016.

Peter was very involved with Camp Mini-Yo-We (Port Sydney, ON) serving as a volunteer on the summer staff at boys camp every July as a young adult, and later, on the Board as a financial advisor. He was an active member at his home church, Weston Park Baptist Church in Toronto.

Peter was a trusted advisor to many on both practical and personal matters. His passions were his family, playing the piano and listening to music of all kinds, exploring Ontario's wilderness, and his love and commitment to God.

Peter will be sorely missed by his former colleagues, neighbours, many friends and his family for his kindness, gentleness, and helpful ways.

---

## PAST PRESIDENTS

In honour of the many Women and Men who have steered the BLA through calm and sometimes turbulent waters from 1949 when we were called "Baptiste Game and Fish Protection Association", to 1963 as "Baptiste Cottagers and Resort Owners Association", to 1984 as "Baptiste Lake Association", to 1987 as "Baptiste Lake Conservation Association" to...Yes, simply Baptiste Lake Association... we thank all of these Past Presidents and wholly recognize their incredible efforts on our behalf.

**1960's:** Bill Briggs, A.R. Murphy, R.D. Collins, G.A. White

**1970's:** Frank Hicks, Les Grimshaw

**1980's:** David Milne, Curtis Toms, Bryn Rennie, Cathy Marshall, Gordon Flagler

**1990's:** Lynn Allan, Bruno Morawetz, Carol Coulters, Bruce Nicholson, Joseph Kryzanowski, Pat Jared

**2000's:** Menna Weese, Kan Chhatwal, Diana Gurley, Marlin Horst

If you see a name that I have missed, (i.e 1970's) please let me know as some of the older minutes are missing in action.

### Notes of Interest:

- In 1997 we had 300 paid members... now we have less than 200!!!

- In 1990 the newsletter was 4 pages.

# MORE COMMERCIAL NEIGHBOURS

*Please support these local businesses and keep this listing close to your telephone*

**Baptiste Lake Marina** – On-the-Lake convenience store, including bread, milk, eggs, BBQ meats and frozen pizza. Gas, marine repairs and service of all makes of motors. Boat rentals, Winter Storage available. 613-332-1233, baptistelakemarina@live.ca

**Birch Cliff Lodge** – Planning a wedding or reunion on the lake? We have been hosting weddings and special events for many years. Please give us a call for more information. 613-332-3316. www.birchcliffodge.ca

**Lakeview Lodge** - Fully equipped 1 bedroom cottages with sofa bed, cot, Satellite TV, BBQ & microwave. Four-season Accommodation in the Village on the Lake. David & Lorraine Leedy. 613-332-3596. www.leedy.ca

**Northern Comfort (Bancroft)** - Authorized dealer of Pacific Energy wood and pellet stoves, Regency wood and propane stoves, Jotul wood stoves, RSF fireplaces and Enviro pellet stoves. Installation and service available. Highway 62N beside Leon's. 613-332-0493.

**Silver Springs Cottage Resort** - Open all year. We have 9 winterized cottages with various sized accommodation. Located on Elephant Lake. (just 5 km to Algonquin park). Store, boat and motor rental, docking, sandy beach. 705-448-2617. www.silverspringscottages.com. Come as a tourist - leave as a friend!

**Lock Stock & Barrel** - Live Bait. Full range of fishing tackle and hunting equipment. Also Antiques, gifts & Collectibles. *Last season open.* Great deals, all season. Thank you for 30 great years of memories! Open 7 days a week. Opposite Tim Hortons on Hwy 62N. 613-332-3420.

**Maynooth General Store** - Our century old store offers gifts, toys, moccasins, lake clothing, groceries, meats, fresh vegetables, Dutch treats and some hardware. Contact us on Facebook or 613-338-2862. Located beside the Municipal Building. Ladies, if you are lucky you may meet "Eye Candy" Bob!

**No.5 Bee Botanical and Food Emporium** - Located at the corner of Hwy 62 and 127 in Maynooth. We offer small batch Natural Body care products, essential oils, tropical plants, annuals and perennials, Local and Regional Artisanal foods, Kombucha, candles, gifts and jewelry. Call us at 613-338-0008.

*If you would like to advertise in our Fall issue, please contact Shelley at [shelley.pickard@rogers.com](mailto:shelley.pickard@rogers.com)*

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## BLA Membership - PayPal Now Available!

Membership fees collected are used to cover expenses necessary to support our goals. We offer family memberships on a one year or three year term. Cost for one year is \$25 / three years \$60.00. Please note that memberships expire on our fiscal year end, March 31st. Please tear out this form and send it in with a cheque made out to "Baptiste Lake Association", Box 877, Bancroft, ON K0L 1C0 or submit your online payment via PayPal - please see the link on our website: [www.baptistelake.org](http://www.baptistelake.org) for details.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, Province/State \_\_\_\_\_  
 Postal Code/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 911 Lake Address \_\_\_\_\_ Lake Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_ Waterfront? Yes / No Water Access Only? Yes / No

\_\_\_ please check here if you have any objection to the Baptiste Lake Association including your name in our Newsletters and/or on our Website